

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain, claims 13-20 standing as withdrawn from further consideration as drawn to a non-elected invention.

The specification has been amended and replacement drawings submitted to correct minor numbering errors.

The claims have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner, and also to improve the language in other respects.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejections of claims 1-4 and 7-9 as anticipated by Liaw (U.S. Patent No. 5,219,242) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 10-12 as being unpatentable over Terada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,613,792) and Oellers (U.S. Patent No. 6,257,563) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 1 recites that the retention features are adapted to engage the headed portion of the pin. The features 2, 3 in Liaw are not adapted to retain a partially spherical headed portion of a pin nor do the bolts shown therein have a partially spherical portion. Thus, it is urged that Liaw does not anticipate claim 1.

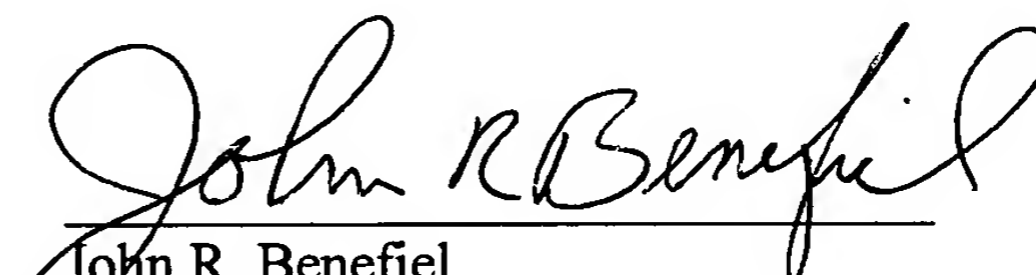
Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Terada et al. since it recites that the isolator is engaged between opposing portions of the respective housing pieces to create an interference fit. In Terada et al., the groove is held only by being received in a split sleeve 44. Thus, there is no engagement with an isolator of opposing portions of the housing pieces to create an interference fit with the isolator to eliminate clearances or lash.

Further, there is no isolator installed on the rod in Terada et al. to be engaged by the housing pieces. While such rod isolators are themselves admittedly known, the inference fit between two separate housing pieces and an isolator is not known nor suggested by either Tareda et al. or Gellers.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 18, 2005


John R. Benefiel
Reg. No. 24,889

280 Daines Street
Suite 100 B
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
(248) 644-1455

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

It is hereby certified that this correspondence, along with any items referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 18, 2005.

By: 